

Message Text

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ACTION TRSE-00

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 EB-08 AID-05 CEA-01
CIAE-00 COME-00 EA-10 FRB-03 INR-10 NEA-10
NSAE-00 ICA-11 OPIC-03 SP-02 LAB-04 SIL-01
AGRE-00 OMB-01 SS-15 /110 W
-----126319 281559Z /44

P 281404Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3116
INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L HELSINKI 2757

USEEC

USOECD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EFIN, IBRD, IMF, FI
SUBJECT: IBRD/IMF DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

REF: (A) STATE 214953, (B) OSLO 4121, (C) STOCKHOLM 3287,

1. EMBASSY OFFICER CONTACTED BOTH MAGNUS ERIKSEN (MINISTRY OF FINANCE) AND JORMA PAUKKO (MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS) TO CHECK ON RESULTS OF HELSINKI AUGUST 24 NORDIC MEETING VIS-A-VIS THE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE. ERIKSEN WAS LESS THAN FORTHCOMING ABOUT THE MEETING, BUT MORE OR LESS FOLLOWED THE LINES INDICATED IN
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REF B. PAUKKO WAS EXPLICIT IN HIS EVALUATION OF THE MEETING, WHICH HE DESCRIBED AS REGULARLY SCHEDULED, AND NOT TIMED DELIBERATELY TO COINCIDE WITH THE LIKE-MINDED'S MEETING JUST CONCLUDED.

2. PAUKKO EMPHASIZED THAT WHILE QUESTIONING THE RATIONALE FOR THE EXISTENCE OF THE LDC,

THE FINNS (AND NORDICS) RECOGNIZE CERTAIN POLITICAL REALITIES: (A) LDC REACTIONS MUST BE SOUNDED OUT BEFORE TAKING ANY NEGATIVE INITIATIVES (2) THE ATTITUDES OF THE BIGGER DONAR COUNTRIES ARE IMPORTANT IN DETERMINING THE TACK THE NORDICS WILL TAKE.

3. PAUKKO CANDIDLY ADMITTED THAT THE FINNS AND NORDICS DO NOT WANT TO GET CAUGHT OUT IN FRONT LEADING AN INITIATIVE TO DISSOLVE THE DC. THEY ARE PREPARED TO WORK WITH A QUOTE CONSTRUCTIVE ATTITUDE END QUOTE TOWARDS THE DC THAT WOULD AIM AT A SHARPLY DEFINED DEFINITION OF TAKS TO JUSTIFY THE COMMITTEE'S EXISTENCE. PAUKKO REITERATED THE IDEA OF WORK ON THE TOPIC OF MASSIVE TRANSFER OF RESOURCES EXPRESSED IN REF B, PARA 2.

4. THE FINNS, HOWEVER, PERCEIVED QUITE A BIT OF VARIANCE AMONG THE OTHER NORDICS ON THE DC. PAUKKO SEES FINLAND ALIGNED MORE CLOSELY WITH NORWAY THAN WITH SWEDEN ON THE ISSUE. WE RECEIVED NO READING AT ALL ON THE DANISH STANCE. THE BOTTOM LINE SEEMS TO BE THAT DESPITE A NORDIC FRONT TO ADOPT A CONSTRUCTIVE ATTITUDE, FINLAND APPEARS TO BE READY NOT TO OPPOSE THE DC'S DEMISE.

FRY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: COMMITTEE MEETINGS, DEVELOPMENT BANKS, MEETING REPORTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978HELSIN02757
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780351-0168
Format: TEL
From: HELSINKI USEEC
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780814/aaaaalus.tel
Line Count: 86
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 140f635a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION TRSE
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 STATE 214953, 78 OSLO 4121, 78 STOCKHOLM 3287
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1594590
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: IBRD/IMF DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
TAGS: EFIN, FI, US, IBRD, IMF, (ERIKSEN, MAGNUS), (PAUKKO, JORMA)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/140f635a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014